



# INTERCOM



SOCIAL INVESTMENT NEWS

Vol. 5 No.2

April 1997

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## Youth Automotive Training Center

The Youth Automotive Training Center, which opened in October 1996, is now running in drive. The building was formerly a bell Atlantic storage facility which had been empty for several years. The transformation of the structure inside and out, was done by three contractors with a social conscience. They were also friends of Richard Liebler, founder of the center and member of the New Community Foundation Board.

NCC was indeed blessed when Rich Liebler joined the Foundation and determined to help the at-risk youth of Newark. As the president and chief executive of Hillside Auto Mall, Rich knows the need for well-trained mechanics. He also agreed with our Workforce Development Program which demands that all students receive their GED as well as participate in a life management skills course which incorporates business propriety, team work, interpersonal relationships, job readiness, etc.

This fifteen month preparation includes 1632 hours of automotive training, 288 hours of academic remediation, and 192 hours of life skills.

Key to the success of the program is the involvement of owners and managers of auto repair facilities. They ensure that the design of the program fits employment needs. N.J. auto dealers who will help to place graduates, have also been involved.

According to one student in the program, "This is an opportunity of a lifetime. It's not for a job, it's for a career."



Students working on new car donated by Hillside Auto Mall



## Babyland Family Services, Inc.

Formerly Babyland Nursery, Inc., Babyland has changed its name to include all of its services. Among these services are those for at-risk teens, teenparents, parents of HIV infected children, abused families, and border babies.

The **Family Violence Program** is offered to abused women and children. Sad stories abound, many of which do not have a happy ending. The following story, however, is indicative of the power of sharing and caring.

Hercelia and her two girls - aged 10 years and 4 months - had an order of protection from her abuser who was in jail awaiting bail momentarily. Frightened of a reoccurrence of abuse, Hercelia called the hotline and was referred to Babyland Family Violence Shelter. In her eleven weeks with us, Hercelia accomplished several goals - ❶ qualified for emergency services for victims of domestic violence which included security payment for an apartment ❷ transferred children's medical records (her infant is physically disabled and requires a therapeutic program) ❸ enrolled oldest daughter in St. Rose School ❹ found a babysitter (sometimes the staff members) ❺ found a part-time job ❻ secured an apartment ❼ enrolled in college part-time.

While this determined woman exceeded the average length of time in the Shelter, she used the time wisely and well. We hope and pray for her continued success.

The **Children Together Shelter** is located in a former Convent in South Orange, N.J. It is staffed by a house mother as well as three full time and six part time helpers.

Sibling groups, ages five through thirteen, are given temporary (30 - 60 days) emergency placement. Complete appropriate assessment, diagnostic interventions, preparation for reunification, and/or transition to other permanent placements are all part of the normal service for siblings who are uprooted from their homes.

Keeping the children together lessens the trauma for siblings who are forced into out-of-home placement.

The problems of fragmented sibling groups, multi-problem families, and hard to place at-risk youth are directly related; they must be solved in an integrated manner. In response to these problems, **Children Together** provides a group home, specialized foster homes for infants, and a network of essential support services.



## UPDATES

### Social Investment

To invest in New Community is to invest in a non-profit community development which has proven itself.

Both the Founder, Msgr. Linder and the NCC Board of Directors have "staying power". They made a commitment in 1968 to remain faithful to the NCC mission.

For thirty years they have struggled to improve the quality of life for the people of Newark and other urban areas. Their concerns multiply as the needs increase.

Funding from government sources is erratic. Foundation grants are never a sure thing. Therefore, for example, the human services are often curtailed or cancelled.

Your investment can insure the life of much needed programs - e.g.

- to help youth find their way productively and independently.
- to ease the pain of seniors living from hand-to-mouth
- to create projects / programs which are job related
- to introduce school age children to the beauty and importance of culture and the Arts

At 8% return, investment in NCC is not a risk. It is a sure thing for you as well as for many inner-city residents.

### Recreation Center

The long awaited NCC Recreation Center - original blueprints drawn in the early eighties - is now rising rapidly on the site adjacent to a Newark library. The building, which is essentially a gym, will include a stage, classrooms, offices, craft room, warming kitchen.

Neighborhood residents, especially the children, are counting the days until its scheduled opening in September '97.



## **S. Joan Lorraine Kreutz, MSBT**

Bright, cheerful, open, honest, committed - these are some of the positive comments often bandied about regarding S. Joan.

Joan teaches second grade at St. Rose of Lima School (part of NCC Network). She is energetic and serious with her students. She is determined that they will learn. And learn, they do. Parents are enlisted to help with homework which is always collected and corrected. Students learn self-discipline and appreciation of all things different.

Joan's classroom is neat, orderly, and appropriately appurtenanced with a nod to the particular season or holiday.

Prior to coming to St. Rose in 1991, Joan had been a principal in a rural integrated school in Alabama and in Mississippi. She has twice received a commendation from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, for her exemplary educational programs for these native Americans in Mississippi.

Joan's higher education was all in elementary education, BS, St. Bernard College, Alabama; MS, University of Southern Mississippi.

This Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity is a considerable asset to St. Rose School. Her experience as teacher and principal coupled with her willingness to share with fellow teachers has proven to be very constructive in the everyday workings of this inner-city school.

Kudos for S. Joan Lorraine.



**The twenty-three religious who work in NCC represent thirteen communities - Dominicans - Caldwell, Elkins Park, Hope, Sparkill; Franciscan Sisters of Peace, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Religious of Good Shepherd, Missionary Servants of Blessed Trinity, Sisters of Charity, Missionary Sisters of Sacred Heart, Comboni Missionary Sisters, Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate.**